

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring supplier activity in a supply chain management framework, comprising:
 - a) a supply chain management computer receiving data from at least one store of a franchise supply chain utilizing a network, the data comprising amounts of sales~~relating to the sale~~ of goods by the at least one store;
 - b) the supply chain management computer generating electronic order forms based on the data for ordering goods from a plurality of suppliers of the franchise supply chain;
 - c) sending the electronic order forms to the suppliers so that the goods are supplied to the stores; and
 - d) means for monitoring reliance of the at least one store on each of the plurality of suppliers based on the electronic order forms for each of the suppliers ~~for monitoring the reliance of the at least one store on each supplier.~~
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic order forms are generated by the at least one store.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the comparison is accessible utilizing a network-based interface.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic order forms indicate a type of the goods and an amount of goods.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the comparison is used to gauge a performance of the suppliers.

7. (Currently amended) A system for monitoring supplier activity in a supply chain management framework, comprising:

an electronic storage; and

a set of processors that use the electronic storage and include among them the following logic elements

a) logic for receiving data from at least one store of a franchise supply chain utilizing a network, the data comprising amounts of sales~~relating to the sale~~ of goods by the at least one store;

b) logic for generating electronic order forms based on the data for ordering goods from a plurality of suppliers of the franchise supply chain;

c) logic for sending the electronic order forms to the suppliers so that the goods are supplied to the stores; and

d) ~~means logic for~~ monitoring reliance of the at least one store on each of the plurality of suppliers by comparing the electronic order forms for each of the suppliers~~for monitoring the reliance of the at least one store on each supplier.~~

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.

9. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the electronic order forms are generated by the at least one store.

10. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the comparison is accessible utilizing a network-based interface.

11. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the electronic order forms indicate a type of the goods and an amount of goods.

12. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the comparison is used to gauge a performance of the suppliers.

13. (Currently amended) A computer program product for monitoring supplier activity in a supply chain management framework, comprising:

a set of computer usable media having computer readable program code embodied therein to be executed by a computer, the computer readable program code comprising:

a) computer code for receiving data from at least one store of a franchise supply chain utilizing a network, the data comprising amounts of sales~~relating to the sale~~ of goods by the at least one store;

b) computer code for generating electronic order forms based on the data for ordering goods from a plurality of suppliers of the franchise supply chain;

c) computer code for sending the electronic order forms to the suppliers so that the goods are supplied to the stores; and

d) computer code for monitoring reliance of the at least one store on each of the plurality of suppliers by comparing the electronic order forms for each of the suppliers~~for monitoring the reliance of the at least one store on each supplier.~~

14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the Internet.

15. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the electronic order forms are generated by the at least one store.

16. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the comparison is accessible utilizing a network-based interface.

17. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the electronic order forms indicate a type of the goods and an amount of goods.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the comparison is used to gauge a performance of the suppliers.